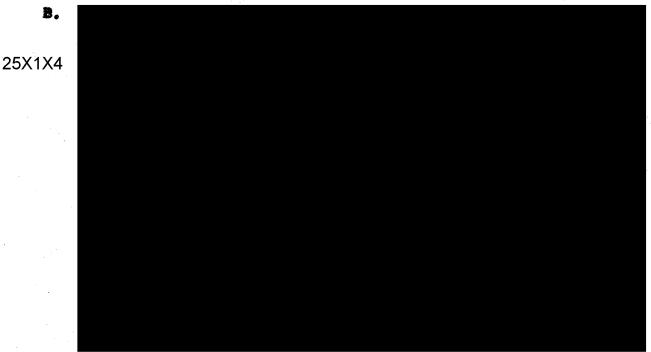
NSC BRIEFING

26 OCTOBER 1956

EFFECTS OF FRENCH COUP IN NORTH AFRICA

- 22 Oct French seizure of five Algerian nationalist leaders being acclaimed in Paris, but threatens to be explosive issue in North Africa. So far some 60 French massacred by angry Moroccans, and late report states that Tunisian troops are fighting French along Algerian frontier.
 - A. Five--all of them leaders-in-exile, not local guerrillas-were in plane under charter to Moroccan sultan (with
 French crew) en route Rabat via Balearics to Tunis for
 conference. French arranged for plane to land at Algiers
 instead, clapped five into jail. Two of five--ben Bella
 and Khider, are ranking leaders of revolt.



to back it. The overwhelming popularity of the move



with the Mational Assembly and the French public apparently outweighed Mollet's initial qualms.

- C. Execution of the abduction involved orders to pilot to
 fly to Algiers instead of Tunis. Six French jet fighters
 reportedly rendezvoused with the transport near the
 Balearies and shadowed the flight to its destination.
 Moroccan government monitors overheard the French orders
 to the pilot and instructed him to remain at his
 refueling point, Palma. If this Moroccan instruction
 was received at all, it was ignored.
- II. French claim documents, interrogation indicate involvement of Moroccan Sultan, Tunisian Premier, some unnamed French politicians and Egyptian government in Algerian revolt.
 - A. Morocco and Tunisia have both protested kidnapping, recalled their Ambassadors from Paris, asked US, UK, and Spanish intervention.
 - B. Arab League has asked UN Security Council action, and Arab-Asian Bloc at UN has requested Hammarskjold's intervention.
 - C. Meanwhile, general strikes being called in Morocco, Tunisia. Both the Sultan and Premier Bourghiba may be forced to revise present moderate policies towards French, meet extremist demands.



- D. Bourghiba, in announcing border clashes to Constituent
 Assembly on 25 Oct, won ovation with declaration
 Tunisians prefer "death to degradation, combat to
 servitude".
- III. French Gov't is standing firm on seizure, although worried by African reactions. Assembly, except for Communists, enthusiastic, and public delighted. However, Undersecretary Savary has resigned in protest.